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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/675,208	09/30/2003	Udo Klein	16104-005001 / 2003P00582	9931

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EXAMINER	
WATT, CHRIS A	

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2179	

DATE MAILED: 07/31/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/675,208	KLEIN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Chris Watt	2179	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *30 September 2003*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-18* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-18* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on *October 20, 2003* is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *1/13/2004*., 5/23/05, 6/15/05
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Inaki et al. (U.S. Patent Number 5,230,062).

As to claim 1, Inaki discloses (FIG. 8) a method of displaying a user input area (i.e. KEY INPUT S42, "display screens of FIGS. 13-1 through 13-10" col. 13 lines 32-33) within a computer user interface (FIG 2A interfaces 4, 16, 8, 12, 14) wherein the user input area corresponds to a data field ("appoint a display area of the field data" col. 1 lines 50-51) having a specified number of characters (i.e. "set the display size of field data being inputted to the fields" col. 1 lines 49-50), the method comprising: displaying the user input area (i.e. KEY INPUT S42, "display screens of FIGS. 13-1 through 13-10" col. 13 lines 32-33) having a size that visually indicates to a user that the user input area will accommodate therein visual representations of the specified number of characters (i.e. highlighted area of FIG. 13E and 13H and "NNNN", "NNN", "NN", "MM" and "DD" of FIG. 13F-13J, see also col. 14 lines 1-8), upon receipt of a user input specifying a character to be included in the data field ("inputting ... a suitable numeric character with a key" col. 13 lines 39-40, e.g. "1" in FIGS. 13C and 13G), displaying within the user input area a visual representation of the input character in a proportional

font (S73, "full-size information is set in a character size buffer" col. 13 lines 55-56, see also FIG. 11K and 11Q), and displaying the user input area having a size that visually indicates to the user that the user input area will accommodate therein visual representations of a remaining number of the specified number of characters (i.e. compare cursor area between FIGS. 13D and 13E , see also col. 13 lines 45-53).

As to claim 2, Inaki teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the user input area is displayed only when the user input area has focus (COLUMN APPOINT S70, "area of defining position is appointed" col. 13 line 45).

As to claim 3, Inaki teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the user input area contains a character before the user input specifying the character is received (e.g. "NNNN YEAR", "MM MONTH", "DD DAY", "NN HR.", "MM MIN." FIG. 13I).

As to claim 4, Inaki teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the user input area is empty when the input specifying the character is received (compare cursor between figures 13A and 13B, see also col. 13 lines 35-40: "wait condition of key input", "moving the cursor to a position where the time field is to be defined" and "inputting a ... suitable numeric character with a key"), and wherein the user input area size then is equal to the specified number of characters times a selected character width (CHECK HEAD CHARACTER SIZE S73, CHECK SIZE S74, see also col. 13 lines 54-58 and FIG. 12: data length and cursor type determine character size).

As to claim 5, Inaki teaches the method of claim 4, wherein the selected character width is an average width of characters (S73, S74, see also col. 13 lines 54-

58 and FIG. 12: data length and cursor type determine character size and compare field, also note cursor and font sizes in FIGS. 11K and 11Q).

As to claim 6, Inaki teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the size of the user input area after the specified character is displayed equals the width of the displayed character plus the remaining number of the specified number of characters times a selected character width (S73, S74, see also col. 13 lines 54-58 and FIG. 12: data length and cursor type determine character size and compare field, also note cursor and font sizes in FIGS. 11K and 11Q).

As to claim 7, Inaki teaches the method of claim 1, wherein the size of the user input area is adjusted after each character that is received (S73, S74, see also col. 13 lines 54-58 and FIG. 12: data length and cursor type determine character size, note return to step 1 after each "key input").

As to claim 8, Inaki teaches the method of claim 1, further comprising adjusting the size of the user input area differently (COMPARE WIDTHS S200) after receiving a second last character of the specified number of characters (i.e. character before end mark "Δ" col. 17 line 40, character in "NO" option from S199, previous to last character in step 22).

As to claim 9, Inaki teaches the method of claim 8, further comprising adjusting the user input area (COMPARE WIDTHS S200), after receiving the second last character (i.e. character before "Δ" (end mark) col. 17 line 40, character in "NO" option from S199, previous to last character in step 22), to equal a cumulative width of all

characters displayed in the user input area plus a selected character width (BLOCK WIDTH = FIELD WIDTH branch from S200, see also CURSOR TYPE listing in FIG. 12).

As to claim 10, Inaki teaches the method of claim 9, wherein the selected character width is a maximum width of characters (BLOCK WIDTH = FIELD WIDTH branch from S200, see also CURSOR TYPE listing in FIG. 12 especially QUADRUPLE FULL-SIZE and cursor size in FIGS. 11P and 11Q).

As to claim 11, Inaki teaches the method of claim 1, further comprising adjusting the size of the user input area after receiving the specified number of characters, to equal a cumulative width of the characters displayed in the user input area (i.e. compare "2 CHARACTERS", "22 CHARACTERS" and "14 CHARACTERS" with active/highlighted input area in bottom right corner of FIGS. 13D, 13E and 13H respectively).

As to claim 12, Inaki teaches the method of claim 1, wherein a user input specifying a character to be removed from the data field is received (i.e. CANCEL KEY in FIG. 8, see also "move the cursor in the reverse direction" col. 7 lines 23-24), further comprising displaying the user input area without the removed character, the user input area having a size equal to a cumulative width of any characters displayed in the user input area plus the remaining number of the specified number of characters times a selected character width (compare "FURIKANA" field in FIGS 11K, 11N and 11O: despite user input, or the lack thereof, the number of characters available from FIG. 11K remains constant).

As to claim 13, Inaki teaches a computer program product containing executable instructions for displaying a user input area (i.e. KEY INPUT S42, "display screens of FIGS. 13-1 through 13-10" col. 13 lines 32-33) within a computer user interface (FIG 2A interfaces 4, 16, 8, 12, 14) wherein the user input area corresponds to a data field ("appoint a display area of the field data" col. 1 lines 50-51) having a specified number of characters (i.e. "set the display size of field data being inputted to the fields" col. 1 lines 49-50), the instructions when executed causing a processor to: display the user input area (i.e. KEY INPUT S42, "display screens of FIGS. 13-1 through 13-10" col. 13 lines 32-33) having a size that visually indicates to a user that the user input area will accommodate therein visual representations of the specified number of characters (i.e. highlighted area of FIG. 13E and 13H and "NNNN", "NNN", "NN", "MM" and "DD" of FIG. 13F-13J, see also col. 14 lines 1-8), upon receipt of a user input specifying a character to be included in the data field ("inputting ... a suitable numeric character with a key" col. 13 lines 39-40, e.g. "1" in FIGS. 13C and 13G), display within the user input area a visual representation of the input character in a proportional font (S73, "full-size information is set in a character size buffer" col. 13 lines 55-56, see also FIG. 11K and 11Q), and display the user input area having a size that visually indicates to the user that the user input area will accommodate therein visual representations of a remaining number of the specified number of characters (i.e. compare cursor area between FIGS. 13D and 13E , see also col. 13 lines 45-53).

As to claim 14, Inaki teaches the computer program product of claim 13, wherein the size of the user input area after displaying the input character equals the width of

the character plus the remaining number of the specified number of characters times a selected character width (S73, S74, see also col. 13 lines 54-58 and FIG. 12: data length and cursor type determine character size and compare field, also note cursor and font sizes in FIGS. 11K and 11Q).

As to claim 15, Inaki teaches the computer program product of claim 13, wherein the remaining number of the specified number of characters is received in the user input area, further comprising instructions that when executed cause the processor to: display the user input area with a size equal to a cumulative width of the displayed specified number of characters in the user input area (S73, S74, see also col. 13 lines 54-58 and FIG. 12: data length and cursor type determine character size, note return to step 1 after each "key input").

As to claim 16, Inaki teaches the computer program product of claim 13, further comprising instructions that when executed cause the processor to: adjust the size of the user input area differently (COMPARE WIDTHS S200) after receiving a second last character of the specified number of characters (i.e. character before "Δ" (end mark) col. 17 line 40, character in "NO" option from S199, previous to last character in step 22).

As to claim 17, Inaki teaches the computer program product of claim 16, further comprising instructions that when executed cause the processor to: adjust the user input area (COMPARE WIDTHS S200), after receiving the second last character (i.e. character before "Δ" (end mark) col. 17 line 40, character in "NO" option from S199, previous to last character in step 22), to a size that is equal to a width of all characters

displayed in the user input area plus a selected character width (BLOCK WIDTH = FIELD WIDTH branch from S200, see also CURSOR TYPE listing in FIG. 12).

As to claim 18, Inaki teaches the computer program product of claim 17, wherein the selected character width is a maximum width of characters (BLOCK WIDTH = FIELD WIDTH branch from S200, see also CURSOR TYPE listing in FIG. 12 especially QUADRUPLE FULL-SIZE and cursor size in FIGS. 11P and 11Q).

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Glaser et al. (U.S. Patent Number 5,450,538) discloses a graphical user interface control for expansion and re-sizing of data fields in forms. Included within this disclosure is a form field which allows for the expansion of the field based on information input from the user or displayed from a database.

Inquiry

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chris Watt whose telephone number is (703) 270-1046. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 6:30-4:00 Eastern.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chanh Nguyen can be reached on (703) 270-0000. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Chris Watt July 17, 2006

CAW

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SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER